Revelation 16

1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

A great voice, a mighty and loud voice, commanded that the seven vial judgements be poured out upon the earth. The seven vials (bowls) are all part of the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15).

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

These judgements bring intense misery upon humanity. They are poured out at the very end of the Wrath of God period of the Last Days. Each bowl is full of the fullness of God's anger. Each of the angels are called to ready themselves for the duty they have been commissioned for.

2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

The First Bowl:

As a result of pouring out the first portion of God's wrath, all those who had received the Mark of the Beast, or worshipped the image, will receive ulcerous boils (sores) on their bodies. These will obviously be extremely painful. It may be better to see this as a terrible skin cancer. Remember that such sores came upon the Egyptians (Exodus 9:8-11).

Exodus 9:8-11 And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And it shall

become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast. And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.

Some commentators suggest that these sores are the result of germ warfare or radiation, but that is highly unlikely since even those who did not receive the Mark would be affected. It seems obvious that it is a direct judgement from God upon those who give themselves over to the Antichrist, and are therefore destined for Hell (Revelation 14:9-11).

Revelation 14:9-11 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man; and every living soul died in the sea.

The Second Bowl:

The sea becomes like the coagulated blood of a corpse. The “sea” here is probably the Mediterranean Sea rather than all the seas and oceans on earth, though some see a worldwide contamination of water. Everything in this Red Death dies, and food supplies are depleted as a result. Some oceans have already experienced what

scientists term the Red Tide, but it is caused by man's misuse of nature, rather than God's wrath. Notice that every sea creature dies because of this toxic poison. This is similar to, but more aggressive than, the judgement upon Egypt when God turned the Nile into blood (Exodus 7:17-21).

Exodus 7:17-21 Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the Lord : behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river. And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

The Third Bowl:

Fresh Water Contaminated. Some Bible commentators see this as a continuation of the previous judgement, but it is much wiser to accept it as another self-contained outpouring of God's wrath. The mention of rivers and fountains refers to drinking water. It too is contaminated so that it looks like blood (Exodus 7:24; Psalm 78:44).

Exodus 7:24 And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the water of the river.

Psalm 78:44 And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink.

Again, it is best to keep this in context with the Beast's kingdom. If every drop of drinking water on earth became like blood all life would be extinguished in three days. People can survive without food much longer than they can without water.

5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

The angel that was responsible for delivering this part of God's wrath declares that God is completely justified in doing this. God never acts unrighteously in anything that He does (Psalm 18:25; 98:9).

Psalm 18:25 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.

Psalm 98:9 Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Regardless of the severity of these last judgements, God is absolutely just in pouring them out.

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Why will this judgement fall? Because the Beast and his empire is guilty of the very worst of atrocities against God's people, both Jew and Christian. They are worthy of such judgement, for they thirsted for blood, so now they must drink it (Isaiah 49:26).

Isaiah 49:26 And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet

wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

It seems that this contaminated water will have to be drunk, for there is nothing else, nevertheless, no chemical treatment or water purification will take away the bitter and nauseating effects.

7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

The cry from the altar, from the martyred saints of God, affirm that the Lord is truly righteous (Revelation 6:9-10).

Revelation 6:9-10 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Man only ever receives the punishment he deserves. Their wait for justice is now over. God is always just and true (Revelation 15:3; 19:2).

Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Revelation 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

The Fourth Bowl:

The Scorching Sun. This refers to an increase in heat and radiation (Isaiah 24:6; 42:25; Malachi 4:1).

Isaiah 24:6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

Isaiah 42:25 Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart.

Malachi 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

The sun will burn hotter than it has ever done in the whole of history, perhaps, as Isaiah 30:26 suggests, seven times hotter.

Isaiah 30:26 Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

It is possible that in this judgement the earth's ozone layer is compromised so much that harmful rays from the sun come through. This great heat must affect the ice caps, and once they have melted, the sea level rises and submerges coastal regions and islands. God has reserved these ice fields for this reason (Job 38:22-23; Amos 9:5-6; Psalm 147:17-18).

Job 38:22-23 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

Amos 9:5-6 And the Lord God of hosts is he that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt. It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath

founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name.

Psalm 147:17-18 He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold? He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.

No doubt millions will die of heat exhaustion and thirst. The Earth was created by God as man's perfect home, but now it is anything but habitable; it will be more like Hell on Earth.

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

Do they repent? No, instead they continue to curse God (Psalm 95:8; Ephesians 4:18).

Psalm 95:8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness.

Ephesians 4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.

Here we see the stubbornness and stupidity of mankind. They will harden their hearts just as Pharaoh did.

10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

The Fifth Bowl:

The Antichrist System judged. The seat (throne) of the Beast is his headquarters or capital, which, in keeping with the Word of God, must be a rebuilt Babylon. It is interesting that this bowl Judgement specifically limits the intense darkness to the seat of the Beast

rather than the whole world. Everyone involved in the Beast's government, and those who honour him, will be plunged into thick darkness. This darkness will be so terrifying that they will bite their tongues with fear, but still they will continue to blaspheme and curse God.

11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

Do they repent? No, they continue to stubbornly reject Him. We see that man's heart has not changed in the thousands of years since the ten plagues upon Egypt. We think that fearful events will cause people to get right with God, but they rarely do. Sadly, they are under the control of Satan himself (2 Corinthians 4:4).

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

The Sixth Bowl:

The River Euphrates is over 1,000 miles long. Much of the water that feeds the river comes from the ice cap on Mount Ararat. It will be interesting to see if Noah's Ark will be finally revealed as a witness to the worldwide Flood.

The River dries up to prepare for the Battle of Armageddon. A great army from the east will ready for battle, made up of the armies of the nations to the east of Israel, meaning the Arab states, and possibly China. The Euphrates separates Israel from Asia, therefore it's drying up will make it easier for the great army to cross into the Holy Land (Isaiah 11:15).

Isaiah 11:16 And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Satan will know that Israel is on the verge of increasing its borders, as promised in Genesis 15:18, all the way to the Euphrates.

Genesis 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.

The Antichrist armies must try to stop this.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet will be in control of this vast army. The frogs symbolise the demonic spirits that will possess the army. Maybe the infernal trio will realise that this vast human army is not sufficient to do battle against Christ, so it needs to be augmented with demonic entities. Their human hosts will be mindless soldiers fighting a mindless battle. Frogs are considered to be unclean creatures (read Leviticus 11:9-21, 41). The term "unclean spirits" or "evil spirits" (Greek: *pneumata akatharta)*appears 21 times in the New Testament and always refers to demonic possession. Frogs catch their prey with their tongues, so these lying entities will deceive mankind with "lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9).

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

These evil spirits will deceive humanity into believing that they can defeat the Lord God Almighty as He returns to earth. This gathering of a huge army is the plan of Satan, but in reality God had preordained it to happen (Joel 3:2, 14; Zechariah 14:2).

Joel 3:2, 14 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. [14] Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Zechariah 14:2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

These demonic spirits will perform amazing miracles (signs) to deceive people into doing their will. This seems to convince the kings (leaders) that they are on the right side despite the pain and thirst. Added to this is the idea that they can wipe out the Jews once and for all. They are all being tricked into fighting Almighty God at Armageddon, but in fact they are entering His winepress (Revelation 14:19).

Revelation 14:19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Who is this Lord God Almighty? Jesus said that He would come as a thief in the night. From the human perspective there seems no hope for Israel as the mighty army stands ready to invade, but then Christ will appear with His armies (Revelation 19:11).

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

It is He whom the false trinity and the armies will fight against. He is our Lord God Almighty. In this verse we have an exhortation to all who live in the Last Days … Be watchful, ready, and remain pure and undefiled. This is a word of encouragement to the surviving believers in that day. Those who compromise with the Antichrist will lose their souls. Spiritually naked people do not enter the Kingdom of God.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

The setting for the Great Battle is Armageddon – Megiddo in Palestine. This place is usually called a valley, but in fact the word Armageddon means “Mount of Megiddo”. The valley closest to Mount Megiddo is called Jezreel. Once the vast army assembles, both the mount and the valley will be too small, therefore it will extend into the Jordan Valley and the valley of Jehoshaphat, then into Idumea and Bozrah.

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

The Seventh Bowl:

The Air. As this bowl was emptied upon the earth, a voice declared “It is Finished!” This is it, the final act of God’s wrath before Christ’s Millennial Kingdom is set up. The voice must belong to God since no one was permitted to enter the temple until the wrath was complete (Revelation 15:8).

Revelation 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

So it is correct that He should announce the end of the judgements. This Judgement is actually the final destruction of both Babylons: religious (Revelation 17) and political (Revelation 18).

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

It seems that all of nature erupts with lightening, thunder, and earthquakes. These are so severe that the like has never been seen on earth before.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Jerusalem will be divided into three parts by an earthquake, that is, almost completely destroyed. This may be what Zechariah 14:4,8 is referring to (see also Isaiah 24:17-21; Joel 3:16; Haggai 2:6-7).

Zechariah 14:4,8 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. [8] And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Isaiah 24:17,21 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. [21] And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

Joel 3:16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Haggai 2:6-7 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Cities all around the world will crumble and fall. Babylon is especially dealt with by God (Revelation 14:8-10).

Revelation 14:8-10 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.

This means that the Antichrist's headquarters, and other major cities around the world, will be utterly destroyed. He will have no power-base or empire.

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Islands will disappear below the seas and oceans. Mountains will be levelled. This obviously refers to a worldwide shift of the earth's tectonic plates. The earthquake of the sixth Seal Judgement moved mountains and islands out of their places, but this one levels mountains and submerges islands. Is it possible that the

Lord will restore the Earth to its pre-flood formation as He prepares for the Millennial Kingdom? (See Isaiah 40:4-5).

Isaiah 40:4-5 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Hailstones a hundred pound in weight will fall upon mankind, resulting in great damage and injury. These stones are not made of ice though, for the Greek word is *lithinos,* which is actually rock. Lithium is used in the batteries of many devices today, and is known to be highly reactive and flammable. It is a light rock, but remember that even a hundred tonne bale of feathers can make a pancake out of a person if it fell on him or her. Maybe these are the feet that trample the grapes in the wine vat (Revelation 14:20).

Revelation 14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

What will be left standing after the great earthquake and gigantic hail? Will people repent? No, they continue to rebel and curse God.